UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/618/Add.2
14 December 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (b)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Report of the Second Committee (Part III)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96, sub-items (a) and (b) (see A/50/618, para. 3). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 38th, 41st and 43rd meetings, on 22 November and 5 and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38, 41 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.29 and L.52

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Desertification and drought" (A/C.2/50/L.29), which read:

---

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/618 and addenda.

95-40317 (E) 151295 181295

/...

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 48/175 of 21 December 1993 in which it recalled the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development set forth in chapter 12, entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought", of Agenda 21 1/ and took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 38.27 of Agenda 21 and of decision 93/33 of 18 June 1993 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, 2/

"Noting the work being undertaken under the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

"Recalling its resolution 48/175, in which it recalled the appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to the United Nations Environment Programme to continue and strengthen their cooperation in combating desertification, notably through support for the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office by the joint venture programme,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 48/175, 3/

"Expressing its concern at the present level of resources available to relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate drought in all affected developing countries and regions,

"1. Welcomes the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Development Programme to strengthen their cooperation in combating desertification through the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Development Programme partnership to combat desertification;

"2. Renews its appeal to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including the International Monetary Fund, as well as non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to relevant United Nations bodies, including, the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, to

---

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolution Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 15 (E/1993/35), annex I.

3/ A/50/347.

strengthen their capacity to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate drought in all affected developing countries and regions;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Desertification and drought" (A/C.2/50/L.52), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.29.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.52 without a vote (see para. 8).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Canada (see A/C.2/50/SR.41).

6. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.52, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.29 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decisions

7. At its 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/115 (A/50/516) and of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/50/227-E/1995/99), submitted under agenda item 96 (b) (see para. 9, draft decisions I and II, respectively).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Desertification and drought

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/175 of 21 December 1993 in which it recalled the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development set forth in chapter 12, entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating

desertification and drought", of Agenda 21 4/ and took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 38.27 of Agenda 21 and of decision 93/33 of 18 June 1993 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, 5/

Noting the work being undertaken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling its resolution 48/175, in which it recalled the appeals to the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to continue and strengthen their cooperation in combating desertification, notably through support for the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) by the joint venture programme,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 48/175, 6/

Expressing its concern at the present level of resources available to relevant United Nations bodies, including the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) of the United Nations Development Programme, to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in all affected developing countries and regions,

1. Welcomes the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen their cooperation in combating desertification through the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Development Programme partnership to combat desertification;

2. Renews its appeal to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to relevant United Nations bodies, including the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) of the United Nations Development Programme, to strengthen their capacity to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in all affected developing countries and regions;

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

5/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 15 (E/1993/35), annex I.

6/ A/50/347.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, which would be considered under one unified sub-item on the agenda entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

9. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Report of the Secretary-General on observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/115

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/115. 7/

DRAFT DECISION II

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region

The General Assembly decides to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region. 8/

7/ A/50/516.

8/ A/50/227-E/1995/99.